

WOMEN'S SNOW FROLICS

By Adelia Belle Beard

THIS snow frolic, planned for the women readers of The Sunday Magazine, is of the kind to loosen for a time the bonds of convention and set free the happy child impulses for play that are a part of our rightful inheritance. "Railroading" is a sport in which all able bodied, fun loving women, men, and children can take part, and you may be sure it will be enjoyed by everyone. It is a country sport, as all outdoor frolics must be, and if several families join your band the fun will be just that much the greater.

Put on a short skirt, stout boots, and a sweater, if you have one; then tie something warm over your ears; and you will be so untrammelled and comfortable that no fear of colds or wet skirts will mar your enjoyment.

Select an unfrequented hill that is good for coasting, one not crossed by any dangerous highway. Notify your neighbors of the intended frolic, then get out and make ready all the sleds, bobs, toboggans, and whatever else can be used for coasting.

Across the coasting track, at intervals of about fifty yards, stretch lines of stout twine or rope, tying them to trees, fences, or anything that will lift them high enough for you easily to walk beneath. From these lines suspend lengths of bright, different colored ribbons or gay strips of colored cambric, and have them just long enough to be barely within reach of the outstretched hands of the coasters as they glide under the floating ends. It is these dangling strips, looking like the "low bridge" signals on a railroad, that give the sport its name.

Loop the ribbons over the lines and stick the short ends down with paste or glue, leaving the long ends free, as shown in Fig. 1. The glue will be sufficient to hold the ribbons to be detached easily when snatched by the flying coaster.

Prepare the lines before leaving the house, and put at least half a dozen ribbons on each one. When they are strung up, slide the ribbons along the lines until they are one foot apart and just over the track. Have your ribbons sufficiently long, and, if necessary, cut them off after they are in place. If your lines are six feet above the ground the ribbons should be about one yard in length. This allows a generous loop at the top.

Beginning the Game

COLLECT your party, number your sleds, bobs, and toboggans, and let each in turn, according to its number, start down the hill. As a sled passes under a line its rider must make a grab for a ribbon, and if successful in catching one she must jerk it quickly off the line, tuck it safely away, and be ready for the ribbons of the next line when she reaches them.

It is tremendously exciting when a sled carries more than one rider and each tries to secure one of the bright trophies for herself.

You will not always be able to catch the ribbon, for at the critical moment the treacherous wind may lift it just out of reach and wave it tantalizingly overhead as your sled glides swiftly on toward the second goal. As you secure them pin the ribbons to your breast like the favors of a children or the medals of a warrior, that they may proclaim your success.

Here is another new snow game, called "William Tell" because, like the "First Confederate" in the story of the Swiss struggle for liberty, the players shoot or knock an apple from the head of a boy. The boy in this case, however, is of snow.

Do you know how to make a snow man? The boys' way is the best. They begin by rolling a snow ball over the ground until, gathering snow as it rolls, it becomes too large and heavy to move.

Then press a good sized, well packed foundation on top of the large ball more snow, packing it down closely as you work, until you have a pillar about four feet high; then make a snow ball the proper size and put it on top for the head. Scrape and chisel the boy into shape with a shingle or trowel. Make him stand on a low pedestal, with his

feet close together and arms folded on his breast. When finished he should look something like Fig. 2. Carve out his features or use pieces of broken twigs to indicate them. If it is freezing weather, give the snow boy a shower bath of cold water, which will harden the snow and prevent his face from being battered entirely out of shape by the missiles for which he will stand as target. Balance a red apple on the top of his head, and he will be ready for the game.

Divide your party into two sides, or let each player play for herself, then provide your ammunition of snow balls. Each player must have an equal number of balls. The object of the game is to knock the apple from the boy's head with a snow ball thrown from a given distance, and the side or player, scoring the greatest number of successful shots wins the game. The distance from which the balls are to be thrown should be decided by the ability of the players. Fifteen feet is about as far as the inexperienced will be able to make a fair shot. When the distance has been agreed upon a line must be made over which no player may step while taking her turn.

When the apple is knocked off the boy's head it must be replaced, and if broken by the shot another should be supplied.

Each player is entitled to three consecutive shots in one turn, and when sides are taken the turns must alternate. First a player on one side throws her three balls, scoring each time she knocks off the apple; then a player on the other side has her turn; after her the play reverts to the first side, and so on until the ammunition is used up and the game ends.

Another Fine Sport

THE fifty foot race is the jolliest kind of winter sport, for it warms the blood and makes the cheeks glow with exercise and laughter. It is almost as easy to carry out the race without exercise as without laughter, for it is very funny.

Short skirts, warm leggings, and over-shoes are necessary for the game, as a tumble in the soft snow is very likely to occur, and, if deep and dry, the snow will rise in clouds as you force your way through it. Choose an open, level piece of ground where the snow is quite untrodden and, without crossing it, mark a starting line at one end of the field and a finishing line fifty feet beyond. Set up two stakes with colored streamers, or little flags, at each end of the finishing line, and let two judges stand one at each stake.

Prepare a simple prize for the winner of the race—anything will do as long as it gives something to strive for and denotes victory, and have another, a comical one, such as a leather or tin medal, for the booby prize.

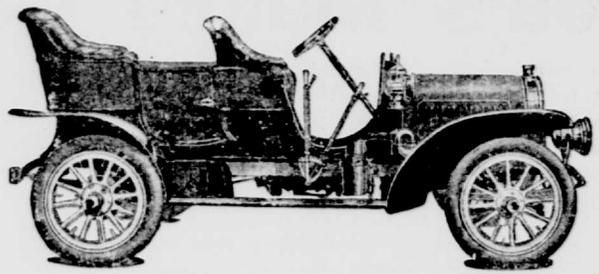
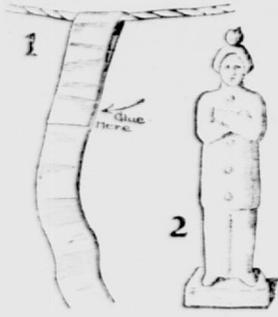
The contestants must stand in a row, each with her right foot advanced and resting on the starting line. When all are in place, let

some one call out slowly and distinctly, "Attention! Are you ready? Go!" At the word the racers must start to run, walk, or plow through the snow. They may choose their own gait, for this is a go-as-you-please race and it doesn't matter in the least how they get there; the thing is to reach the goal in the shortest possible time. It will not be easy going, even if the snow is only six inches deep, and in their desperate efforts to win the players will flounder about in the most absurd manner.

No allowances or excuses are to be made for snow drifts or other impediments offered by the weather. When a player encounters a snow drift she must manage to get through as best she can, or, if she prefers she may take her chances of making better time by going around the drift.

The first player to cross the line with both feet is the winner of the race and secures the victor's prize; the last to reach it is the "booby" and should be ceremoniously presented with the tin medal.

It is the duty of the judges to see that the line is fairly crossed in all cases, and the hard and fast rule of the game is that no player may drop out, once she has started in the race.



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